

WILLIAM NEWHAM AND  
OLIVIA SOPHIA MOORE  
BANCROFT



William Newham Bancroft was born on  
February 18, 1842, in Breaston, Derbyshire,

849

850

William Bancroft Shingle Mill

FROM BEAVER CREEK TO THE MOUNTAINS

England, son of William Newham Bancroft Sr. He married Olivia Sophia Moore in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was born August 31, 1852, in Willenhall, Staffordshire, England, daughter of George and Mary Ann Davis Moore. William died in 1901 and Olive died November 6, 1933.

When eight years old, Olivia walked across the plains with her parents and they settled first in the Provo area. Olivia was baptized into the LDS Church in 1860. William Bancroft and Olivia Moore were married May 15, 1871, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

Billie and Ollie, as they were better known, lived first in Provo. Later they moved to Wallsburg, Wasatch County, where Billie was interested in a shingle mill.

The Bancrofts were very poor people. Billie sharpened scissors and soldered pans to earn money. He was musically inclined, playing the dulcimer for dances and entertainments, while a Mr. Wheeler from Wallsburg fiddled. Ollie acted as a midwife and also did washings, going as far as Charleston, walking both ways and doing large washings on the board for fifty cents a washing. Washing in those days meant hauling water from the creek or spring.

Their humble home was burned to the ground, so Ollie washed both at home and at other homes and did other odd jobs until she had enough logs bought to build another home. Then the people in the ward, under the direction of the bishopric, built her a home, which still stands, Warren Oaks being the owner. When John P. Anderson was a member of the school board they hired Ollie to be janitor of the school. He said she was a very dependable woman.

Ollie was a counselor in the Primary many years and chorister in the ward, and did much singing. She had a beautiful voice. She took care of supplies for the Sacrament. She was good-looking, very proud and jolly, and was loved by all who knew her. She was a faithful Latter-day Saint and loved the Church.

They were the parents of 11 children:

Catherine Olivia, born March 28, 1872, at Provo, who married William James Williams.

William, born September 13, 1874, at Wallsburg, who died in 1874.

Mary Agnes, born August 16, 1875, at Heber, who married Joseph Chaplin and Joseph Pulley. Died.

Annie Eliza, born February 18, 1878, at Wallsburg, married John Mezzen.

Hannah, born October 19, 1880, at Wallsburg, married Henry X. Clegg.

Minnie, born August 27, 1882, at Wallsburg, married Chester Davis.

Nellie, born September 25, 1884, at Wallsburg, married Bert Wilbur.

Emma, born February 28, 1887, at Wallsburg, married Sam Howarth.

Lillie, born November 6, 1889, at Charleston, married Wilbur Washburn and Porter Woodmore.

Romanza, born August 10, 1892, at Daniel, married Orson O. Mott.

George Albert, born July 4, 1895, at Daniel, married Callie Augusta Rasmussen.

Myrle Marie, born March 27, 1898, married David Baum and Earl McCormick.

When George Albert was born, Billie was at Heber to a celebration. When he heard he had a son after so many girls, the trip home to see him seemed endless.

Shingle Maker

Musician

Tinker

She-midwife

Lived in Log homes